



SELECTED EVENTS – September to December 2003

December 28 - 29, 2003

Ambassador Daniels R. Coats and his wife visited Dresden, Saxony, and Seiffen in the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge).

December 18, 2003

Consul General Fletcher M. Burton handed over 31 Dresdner Christmas Cakes (Christstollen) to the 181st battalion. A Leipzig business man donated the Christstollen as a sign of solidarity with U. S. troops in Iraq.

December 13, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky attended a concert of Gospel music performed by combined high-school music classes. The organizers were a small semi-professional group of University of Leipzig graduates.

December 11, 2003

Consul General Fletcher M. Burton and Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky joined the lecture "*A New Culture of Communication: Constructing Transatlantic Relations for the 21st Century*" of Professor Crister Garrett. Garrett delivered his first lecture as holder of the newly established Fulbright Leipzig University Distinguished Chair for American Studies - the only such chair in Germany aside from Frankfurt.

December 11, 2003

American cult author Darius James introduced his unusual Christmas story "*Froggie Chocolates' Christmas Eve*" to a mainly young audience in Leipzig at the Telegraph club.

December 11, 2003

Leipzig Consul General Fletcher Burton and Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky welcomed the U.S. Air Force band to Leipzig and greeted them after their concert in the Gewandhaus. The band members visited the Mendelssohn museum to view an autograph of four pages of music by Mendelssohn that was purchased in part with proceeds from the concert.

December 9, 2003

Twelve high-ranking police officers from Eastern Saxony visited the Consulate General, to learn more about the profile and work of Mission Germany. Discussions with Consul General Fletcher Burton and Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Eleonore Fox centered on the war in Iraq as well as German and American perspectives on EU enlargement.

December 8 - 9, 2003

Alvin "Youngblood" Hart -- Memphis based singer-guitarist, and 2003 Grammy nominee - lectured and performed in Dessau (December 8) and Eisenach (December 9). Mr. Hart met in Dessau with students at the Philanthropinum, a high school founded in the 18th century, and discussed with them roots and trends in blues, his personal background and music.

December 4 - 5, 2003

Leipzig's Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky and the Consulate's two U.S. interns visited Johanngeorgenstadt on the southern border of Saxony. They spent a morning at the school for mentally challenged students who came from all parts of Germany. Dr. Bonkowsky also met with the regional director of special schools, the mayor and the Landrat. The interns gave presentations to three additional school groups.

December 4, 2003

Consulate General Leipzig staff members represented the consulate at the opening of the exhibit "*Impressions from Fort Wayne*" in Gera. Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Gera are sister cities and are maintaining a lively exchange.

November 27, 2003

Professor Andrew Pierre, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, explained transatlantic relations and U.S. policy on Iraq to 150 political science students at Jena University and engaged a round of six journalists on the same topics during a breakfast session.

November 25, 2003

Leipzig's Consul General Fletcher Burton lectured to 150 11th grade students of two Torgau high schools about U.S. politics and society. Consul Burton also met the Lord Mayor of Torgau.

November 20, 2003

John Cloud, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy Berlin, spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new AMD chip factory in Dresden. John Cloud also visited Opel Eisenach (GM), Thuringia, and met with local political representatives.

November 14, 2003

'Sister Act', an all-girls student drama group from Friedrich-Schiller-Gymnasium, staged "*Harriet Tubman - Conductor on the Underground Railroad*". After numerous successful performances of the play on African-American heroine Harriet Tubman during the past few months, 'Sister Act' took the project to the next level and visited schools in the Washington and New York area, October 29 - November 14, 2003.

November 13, 2003

A group of students and their Professor Hartmut Keil from the American Studies Institute of Leipzig University gave a presentation of their academic excursion to Houston (9/22-10/6, 2003). Since the study tour on civil society and civic engagement coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Leipzig-Houston sister city relationship, the Leipzig-Houston sister city organization acted as host.

November 13, 2003

Bibliothek und Universität: Wettbewerbs- oder Kooperationspartner?

Professor Michael B. Hinner. Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg, Fachenglisch und Kommunikationswissenschaften
Veranstaltungsort: Stadtbibliothek Leipzig

November 12, 2003

Information Resource Center assistant Geertje Huendorf talked about "*Intercultural Differences - U.S. and Germany*" at the local adult education center in Hohenstein-Ernstthal.

November 10, 2003

George Bartenieff, American actor and producer, performed part II of the Off-Broadway play "*I Will Bear Witness: The Diaries of Victor Klemperer*" at the Technical University Dresden.

November 5, 2003

Teri A. Simmons, an Atlanta based lawyer, was the featured guest speaker for the 3rd American Studies Alumni Association guest lecture at Leipzig University and spoke about recent developments in U.S. immigration law.

November 4, 2003

Prof. Michael Fazio, University of Mississippi, architect and a leading American expert in the field of preservation of historic buildings in the South, met with colleagues of the Saxon Chamber of Architects in Dresden for consultations. In his evening lecture at the Technical University Dresden, he introduced architects and students to preservation efforts and city development in the U.S.

October 31, 2003

Ambassador Daniel R. Coats and Mrs. Coats joined by Leipzig Consul General Fletcher M. Burton, celebrated Reformation Day in Wittenberg. Ambassador Coats and his wife Marsha took part in a worship service, visited the newly renovated Luther House, and enjoyed a medieval fair. Because of the recent release of the German-American film "*Luther*," interest in Wittenberg was particularly high this year.

October 29, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky joined Consul General Fletcher M. Burton in attending the preview showing of the German-language version of the movie "*Luther*" in Halle. The film was co-financed by the three states of the Leipzig consular district.

October 24, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky attended the opening of Czech Culture Week in Dresden.

October 23, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth joined in welcoming the official recognition of the school of international relations at the Technical University of Dresden. This was the first such department in Germany - the first graduates of the program which had been built up over the past several years were successful in finding interesting positions in business and academia.

October 23, 2003

Professor Dr. Robert F. Rich from the University of Chicago met with eight representatives from the Saxony Ministry for Health and Social Affairs to discuss the latest trends and problems in national health care.

October 22 - 24, 2003

Dr. Cathleen Fisher, Associate Director of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, discussed foreign policy rifts between the U.S. and its European partners. In lectures, small discussion groups and media backgrounders (October 22: Jena; October 23: Chemnitz; October 24: Leipzig), Dr. Fisher talked to students, Bundeswehr and public from Saxony and Thuringia.

October 22, 2003

The Leipzig - Houston Sister City Association organized an evening to present the work and art of Eiko Grimberg, a graduate of photography at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig. Grimberg's works reflected his interest in American culture in Germany and German culture in the U.S. Grimberg presented a slide show with photographs of former German communities in the Hill Country in Texas, which he visited in spring 2003.

October 22, 2003

Dr. Michael P. Olson, Librarian for Germanic Collections, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, lectured on "*German and American Libraries Today and Tomorrow: Fundraising at American and German Libraries*" at public library Leipzig.

October 21, 2003

Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Eleanore Fox, and the director of the consulate's Information Resource Center lectured at Magdeburg's public library for 15 English teachers. The program included a lecture on cultural differences "*Freedom Fries and Friedensbewegung (peace movement)*" and a presentation on gateways to USA information on the Internet.

October 15 - 16, 2003

Ambassador Daniel R. Coats and Mrs. Coats visited Thuringia. They met Minister President Dieter Althaus in Erfurt and the Lord Mayor of Weimar Dr. Volkhardt Germer, and had several media interviews. Mrs. Coats talked to highschool students at Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium, Erfurt, and Schiller-Gymnasium in Weimar. Ambassador Coats and his wife did a bible reading with Pastor Eggert at Weimar's public library.

October 14 - 19, 2003

The 46th International Leipzig Festival for Documentary Film took place in Leipzig. Several American films among the 361 international contributions from 47 countries opened another window into the world for eastern German and international audiences.

October 8 - 11, 2003

The US Consulate General Leipzig supported Leipzig Jazz Club which hosted its 27th international festival "Leipziger Jazztage" - the most important forum for contemporary jazz and world music in the five new German states. The concerts took place in smaller clubs, as well as in Leipzig's Opera House, and featured newcomers as well as U.S. legends Ron Carter and Jimmy Smith.

October 7 - 8, 2003

U.S. political analyst Andrew Denison explained to students and staff of the Saxon Police Academy (October 7) in Rothenburg and the Bundeswehr Military Academy Dresden (October 8) recent developments in transatlantic security policy.

October 3 - 5, 2003

Lord Mayor Bill Purcell from Magdeburg's sister city Nashville, TN, visited Magdeburg. Purcell attended the German Unity festivities for the entire weekend together with Leipzig Consul General Fletcher Burton (a Nashville native) and Lord Mayor Lutz Trümper. During his visit the city installed official partnership plates at Magdeburg's entrance roads.

October 2, 2003

Consul General Fletcher Burton spoke as the guest of honor at the 6th American Night organized by the Gera - Fort Wayne Sister City Organization. This event had become an annual tradition.

September 30, 2003

Consul General Fletcher Burton talked about Leipzig Consulate General's cultural and economic activities in the new Länder on the Leipzig market square. The interview took place in the framework of 'world music day' celebrated as part of Leipzig's cultural week.

September 29, 2003

The Joel Meyerowitz photo exhibit on 9/11 currently on display in Weimar provided the backdrop for a panel discussion dealing with the consequences of the attack on the World Trade Center two years ago. The discussion featured Leipzig Consul General Fletcher Burton, Thuringian Minister President Dieter Althaus, State Bishop Christoph Kähler and political scientist Manuel Fröhlich.

September 29, 2003

Peter Givler, executive director of the American Association of University Presses, lectured on *"Copyright: It's for the Public Good"* at the University Library Leipzig.

September 23, 2003

Consul General Fletcher Burton joined a seminar by VER.DI on the topic *"Anti-Amerikanismus - Kampfbegriff oder Vorurteil?"* at VER.Di Bildungsstätte Saalfeld.

September 22 - 25, 2003

Consul General Fletcher Burton and Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky addressed the conference on *"Organized Crime - A Transatlantic Challenge"* for representatives of law-enforcement agencies from Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Brandenburg in Bautzen-Schmochtitz. This law enforcement conference was organized in cooperation with Landes-Polizeischule Sachsen and Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. Sally Stoecker from 'Transnational Crime and Corruption Center' and Anton Smith, U.S. Embassy Berlin, explained the global threat of human trafficking and money laundering, while German experts explored organized crime on a state, federal and global level.

September 22, 2003

Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Eleanore Fox discussed the aftermath of the Iraq War with a group of 9th graders from Sankt-Benno-Gymnasium in Dresden. The staffers of the consulate's Information Resource Center (IRC) introduced the students to IRC resources.

September 22, 2003

Consul General Fletcher Burton lectured on *"EU-Osterweiterung"* at the Marriott Hotel Leipzig.

September 21, 2003

Consul General Fletcher Burton joined a reception at the Dresden Heritage e.V.

September 18, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky hosted three high school students from the Leipzig consular district, their parents and geography teachers to acknowledge their excellent showing in the 'National Geographic World Championship' in Tampa, FL, in July. At the German finals in Bremen the three students had beaten out all other German participants (one from each state) to be upstaged only by the U.S. in a tight world championship contest involving 19 countries.

September 17, 2003

Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Eleanore Fox participated in a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of the 273rd birthday of Baron von Steuben and delivered greeting remarks. The ceremony, organized by the Dialogue Center in Magdeburg, was also attended by Dr. Uwe Küster, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the German-American Dialogue Center in Magdeburg, Lord Mayor of Magdeburg, Dr. Lutz Trümper, and Eberhard Pohl, President of the Saxony-Anhalt regional branch of the Steuben-Schurz Society.

September 15, 2003

In Görlitz, Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky and Information Resource Officer Holly Murten, U.S. Embassy Berlin, met representatives of cross-border initiatives and discussed Germany-Polish projects, such as Polish-German kindergarten, cooperation between the Görlitz daily newspaper and its counterpart in Wroclaw. Dr. Bonkowsky also met with the Rector of the Zittau-Görlitz technical college, the new tri-country, three-languages-plus-English "Neisse University," which conducts classes in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany.

September 15, 2003

Europa Library Görlitz, whose basic collection stems from a U.S. military collection donated in 1996, staged its annual 'America Day.' Leipzig's Information Resource Center staff gave presentations on cross-cultural differences and gateways to USA information on the web to students and their teachers.

September 14, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky attended the traditional outdoor fall concert of the Bergsteiger (mountain-climbers') men's choir in the area south of Dresden known as "Saxon Switzerland." The concert took place in front of a backdrop of dramatic rock formations. 80 members of the choir were traveling to the U.S. the next month for performances at the Columbus, Ohio Oktoberfest and fall festival in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

September 13, 2003

Science Officer Carl Siebentritt and Economic Officer Anton Smith, both from the U.S. Embassy Berlin, gave a lecture on "*Terrorism as a Threat to Modern Societies*" at the Weimar Intercity Hotel. The lecture was initiated in conjunction with the exhibition of Joel Meyerowitz' photographs titled "*After September 11: Images from Ground Zero*". The event was a joint program of Weimar's U.S. Veterans Friends Germany and the U.S. Consulate General Leipzig.

September 12, 2003

Mrs. Coats and Ambassador Daniel R. Coats attended the first annual Dresden International School Golf Tournament, which was held under the patronage of Mrs. Coats. The event aimed at generating money for the school's scholarship fund and increasing support for international schools in the district. Following the tournament Saxony Minister President Milbradt joined the Coats for a dinner party, which was also attended by Leipzig Consul General Fletcher Burton.

September 11, 2003

Consul General Fletcher Burton opened the exhibit of Joel Meyerowitz photos "*After September 11: Images from Ground Zero*" at Weimar Intercity Hotel.

September 11, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky attended the opening of a photo exhibit of everyday life in New York City entitled "*Unknown Friend*". The photos were taken in the summer of 2001; the subjects were revisited after the September 11 attack on the WTC.

September 9, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky and the director of the Information Resource Center of Leipzig's consulate officially handed over the new collection of books and CDs about the USA to Freital municipal library. Freital library received a flood grant in September 2002 from the US Embassy in Berlin.

September 3, 2003

Consul for Public Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bonkowsky attended the tribute to American studies professor Kurt Müller and the opening of the American studies conference "*Ethics and Morality as Problems of Literature and Literary Studies*" which brought together leading American studies scholars from around Germany.